

City of Morgantown
Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes September 19, 2013

Present: Jan Derry, Member
Mike Fike, Member Tim Hairston – State HRC Liaison, Ex-officio
Anne Marie Lofaso, Member Dave Bott – Administrative Representative
Anne Marlene Robinson-Savino, Secretary
Don Spencer, Chair
Fran Whiteman

Visitors: Dylan Batten, Andy Fang, Tyler George, Heather Martin, John Miles

Meeting called to order by Don Spencer, Chair, at 6:35 p.m. Spencer introduced new member of the Commission Fran Whiteman. He also reported that Tim Hairston had been approved as an ex-officio member of the HRC.

Public Session: Tyler George spoke in support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act bill which has been introduced in the Senate by a senator from Oregon. He asked that support be given through calls to Senator Manchin. Heather Martin also spoke in support of non-discrimination in employment. Andy Fang spoke in support of protecting disabled veterans and their needs for accessible, affordable housing. John Miles spoke in support of inclusive participation in the development of HRC plans and policies.

Communications: The chair shared an announcement that the Community Coalition for Social Justice will be having its annual picnic on 9/22/13 at 4 p.m. Mike Fike described an upcoming conference on Business and Human Rights being sponsored by the WVU Law School. Anne Marie Lofaso stated that she will be on the program of the event which is to be held at the Alumni Center on September 23-24. Don Spencer reported that the HRC has been invited to have a table at the WVU/City/BOPARC sponsored International Festival to be held at the Waterfront Park on Friday, September 27 between 10 and 4 p.m. Commission members are urged to attend. A polling vote to support a table staffed by Susan Sullivan was unanimously approved.

Minutes read: Anne Marlene Robinson presented the minutes and notes from the August 15 meeting. On a motion by Jan Derry and seconded by Anna Marie Lofaso, the minutes were approved with typographical corrections with two typographical corrections.

Report on Bylaws and Logo: Dave Bott reported that City Council had taken action to approve the logo, but no action has yet been taken on the bylaws. Jeff Mikorski has reported that the bylaws will be distributed to Council when ever the staff review is complete. Bott indicated that he would work with the City manager in supporting completion of the approval.

Report on the State HRC: Tim Hairston reported that as vice chair he had chaired the state meeting today and that the State HRC will be convening a conference on housing in

the Morgantown area sometime in April of 2014. He stated that he wants the City HRC involved in the event. Jan Derry recommended that the topic of predatory lending be included in the agenda. Hairston also reported that the state HRC office has completed a new EEOC Enforcement Guide.

Preparations on Meeting with City Officials on Fair Housing Issues: Jan Derry brought up several observations about City problems with Fair Housing issues which have been mentioned in recent reports – some of which have asked for comments to be due on September 24. Bott said that he would review the materials and report back to the HRC to clarify the organization of the information. Derry led a discussion on enforcement of accessibility standards in the city with all members participating. The members agreed to continue the discussion at the October HRC meeting.

Developing a Plan for HRC Priorities for Current Fiscal Year: The three topics receiving attention by the HRC are the development of a needs survey, Fair Housing initiatives and the development of a comprehensive affirmative action plan. Spencer stated that he had just met with Bob Jones, a former chair of the Alderson Broaddus Social Work Department and retired continuing education coordinator for the WVU School of Social Work. Jones is willing to work on a need survey design which can be proposed to the HRC for implementation during the current fiscal year. Members agreed that this possibility should be pursued with Jones. It is anticipated that a proposal can be prepared in time for the October HRC meeting.

Plan for Next Meeting: It was agreed that the October meeting would include further refinement of the plan for the Fair Housing meeting with City officials, evaluation of a proposed plan for a need survey, and review of the docket, calendar and other material applicable for establishing an HRC work plan to be completed by June 30 2014.

The meeting was adjourned with the approval of the membership at 8:50 p.m.

dls/AMR-S